# ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

# Public Health and Sanitary Condition

OF THE

# Urban District of Linslade,

FOR THE YEAR

# 1918,

BY


## C. M. L. COWPER,

## Medical Officer of Health.


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TO THE

# URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF

# LINSLADE.

I beg to submit my Annual Report for 1918.

## The Population.

according to the 1911 census was 2,262.

## Births and Birth Rate.

Thirty-four births were registered. This gives a birth rate of 15.03, a very low rate.

## Deaths and Death Rate.

Thirty-four deaths were registered in the district. To these must be added four deaths of residents not registered in the district.

The resulting number of deaths is 38, giving a death rate of 16.79.

## Measures Relating to Child and Maternity Welfare.

The Infant Welfare Centre is held twice a month at the Forster Institute.

Some forty-two names are now on the list, and all attend regularly.

This year there have only been two deaths of infants under one year—one from premature birth and one as the result of pneumonia following influenza—so that the Infant Welfare Centre continues its good work and influence.

## Zymotic Diseases.

This year your district has been wonderfully free from Zymotic Disease—only five cases have been notified in all, two of diphtheria and three of measles.

## Consumption.

Three cases of consumption were notified.

## Over 65 Years.

Of the total number of deaths, fourteen were over 65 years of age.

## Methods of Dealing with Infectious Diseases.

Diseases notified under the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, are isolated at home, if this can be done with safety. If not, they are removed to the Grove Isolation Hospital, jointly owned by the Wing Rural and Linslade Urban Districts.

It is situated in the Wing District.

After recovery, or removal of the patient to the Hospital, the infected premises are disinfected, under the supervision of Mr. Platten, Sanitary Inspector (pro. tem.).

Formalin fumigation is used, and the floors cleansed with suitable disinfectants. Personal effects and bedding are sent to the steam disinfector at Grove Hospital. Arrangements have been made with the medical authorities to take other patients, such as soldiers billeted in the district, suffering from infectious diseases for disinfecting and bathing; also for cleaning and disinfecting clothes and bedding.

## Chief Occupations of Inhabitants and Influence on Health.

The absence of unhealthy occupations doubtless contributes to the good health of the district and makes it specially suitable for a residential town.

In addition to the ordinary occupations incidental to a country town in an agricultural district, a considerable number of men find regular employment at the London and North Western Railway Station, Morgan's Carriage, Motor and

Engineering Works, at present an aeroplane factory, Yirrell's builders' yard and premises, Printing Works, a mill for the manufacture of feeding stuffs for cattle, and premises for building and repairing canal boats.

## Offensive Trades.

There are none.

## Water Supply

is good and abundant. From a deep well the water is pumped to the top of a hill of sufficient elevation above the town level, and distributed by gravitation. It is cleared by sand, the sand being changed as required.

## Sewerage and Drainage.

The system in use in this district is still working and giving a good effluent.

## Pollution of Rivers and Streams.

The ditch coming to the surface in Mentmore Road was cleared out and a drain which ran into it was connected with the main sewer, and the result is shown in the comparative absence of diphtheria in the district this year.

## House Refuse.

is still removed by contract, and that which cannot be burned is deposited on the Council's land at the Sewage Pumping Station and buried.

This method has proved, so far, satisfactory, and additional land has been purchased, which will be adequate for some time.

## Milk Supply, Milk Shops, Dairies and Cowsheds.

The milk supply is obtained from the farms in the district, and milk carts from Leighton Buzzard. There is one cowshed well supplied with light, ventilation and floor drainage, and with plenty of cubic space per cow; also good drinking water for cows. No action regarding unwholesome milk, tuberculous or otherwise, has been found necessary during the year.

The Linslade Council retains the services of a Veterinary Inspector for the district.

## Slaughter Houses.

There is only one in the district. It is frequently inspected, regularly limewashed, and is in good condition, with suitable arrangements for flushing purposes. No unsound meat was found during the year.

## Bakehouses.

Only one, which is regularly inspected, limewashed, and in accordance with all the requirements.

## Factories and Workshops.

Morgan's Carriage and Motor Works. These works are now being exclusively used for the manufacture of aeroplanes. They have been very considerably enlarged of late. They are modern buildings, roomy, well lighted and ventilated, supplied with sufficient sanitary conveniences and equipped with automatically closing fireproof doors.

Brantom's Mills for corn crushing, manufacture of feeding stuffs for cattle, etc., also in good condition, with plenty of room, light and ventilation.

Printing Works. — A comparatively new building, first constructed for a Brewery, altered and fitted up for its present purpose.

Premises for building and repairing canal boats, situated beside the canal and in good order

There are also twelve workshops, including the bakehouse previously mentioned, all being for the ordinary trades of a small town, such as dressmaking, tailoring, forges, hand laundries, etc. No defects were found.

## Outworkers.

The name of one outworker engaged in the urban district of Westminster have been received.

## Schools

Are three in number.

1. The New Boys' School. Lofty, well-ventilated and up-to-date in school architecture. The approach to this school is, however, in very bad condition; it is generally deep in mud

and after a storm the pupils have literally to wade to school and sit for hours with wet feet.

2. The Stoke Road Council Girls' School.. A good, roomy, well-lighted and ventilated building of which the sanitary condition is good.

3. The Council Infants' School. Previously used for both girls and infants, now only for the latter, for which it is certainly better suited on account of the smaller number of children. All previous objections are now non-existent.

## Nuisances.

One hundred and seventy-six houses have been inspected. Thirty-three nuisances were detected without complaint. Six were served with formal notices, and in each case the drains were re-arranged.

Sixty-one houses were inspected under the Housing Act, and in only one case was it necessary to have the drainage reconstructed.

## House Accommodation — Especially Working Classes: Its Adequacy and Fitness for Habitation.

There is some scarcity of accommodation, although a good many new houses suitable for the artisan and working classes have been built in recent years. Most of the houses have plenty of open space, plots of garden and clean surroundings.

The Council exercises strict supervision over the erection of new houses. All plans are submitted to the Council and occupation is not permitted until all Bye-laws have been conformed to, and efficient sanitary arrangements carried out.

I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

**C. M. L. COWPER,**

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of whole District during 1918 & previous years.

| Year. | Population estimated to Middle of each Year. | Births. | | | Total Deaths Registered in the District. | | Transferable Deaths. | | Nett Deaths belonging to the District. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Uncor. No. | Nett. | | | | | | Under One Year of Age | | At all Ages. | |
| | | | Number. | Rate. | Number. | Rate. | of Non-residents registered in the District. | of Residents not registered in the District. | Number. | Rate per 1,000 Nett Births. | Number. | Rate. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 1912 | 2262 | 35 | 35 | 15·47 | 24 | 10·61 | | 2 | 3 | 85·71 | 26 | 11·06 |
| 1913 | 2262 | 46 | 46 | 20·33 | 22 | 9·32 | | 5 | 5 | 108·7 | 27 | 11·93 |
| 1914 | 2262 | 38 | 38 | 16·79 | 31 | 13·70 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 78·94 | 31 | 13·70 |
| 1915 | 2262 | 43 | 43 | 19·1 | 31 | 13·70 | | 6 | 2 | 46·51 | 31 | 13·70 |
| 1916 | 2262 | 39 | 39 | 17·24 | 30 | 13·26 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 77· | 30 | 13·26 |
| 1917 | 2262 | 35 | 35 | 15·46 | 24 | 10·61 | | 2 | 0 | | 24 | 10·61 |
| 1918 | 2262 | 34 | 34 | 15·03 | 34 | 15·03 | | 4 | 1 | 29·41 | 38 | 16·79 |

Area of District in acres (land and inland water) } 1,693.

Total population at all ages 2262
Number of inhabited houses 560
Average number of persons per house 4
} At Census, 1911.

# TABLE II.

## Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1918.

| Notifiable Disease. | Number of Cases Notified. | | | | | | | Total cases removed to Hospital. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | At all Ages. | At Ages—Years. | | | | | | |
| | | 1 to 5 | 5 to 15 | 15 to 25 | 25 to 45 | 45 to 65 | 65 & upwards | |
| Small-pox ..... | | | | | | | | |
| Cholera ..... | | | | | | | | |
| Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| Erysipelas ..... | | | | | | | | |
| Scarlet Fever ..... | | | | | | | | |
| Typhus Fever ... | | | | | | | | |
| Enteric Fever..... | | | | | | | | |
| Relapsing Fever ... | | | | | | | | |
| Continued Fever ... | | | | | | | | |
| Puerperal Fever ... | | | | | | | | |
| Cerebro-spinal Meningitis..... | | | | | | | | |
| Poliomyelitis ..... | | | | | | | | |
| Measles and German Measles ..... | 3 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..... | 3 | ... | ... | .. | 3 | .. | ... | |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis..... | | | | | | | | |
| Totals ..... | 8 | 1 | 4 | ... | 3 | ... | ... | |

Grove Isolation Hospital, Grove. Total available beds, 20.

Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 3.

# TABLE III.

LINSLADE URBAN DISTRICT.—Causes of, and Ages at Death during the year 1918.

| Causes of Death. | Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | All Ages. | Under 1 Year. | 1 and under 2. | 2 and under 5. | 5 and under 15. | 15 and under 25. | 25 and under 45. | 45 and under 65. | 65 and upwards |
| All Causes { Certified / Uncert. | 38 | 2 | 1 | | | 3 | 6 | 11 | 15 |
| Enteric Fever ... ... | | | | | | | | | |
| Small-pox ... ... ... | | | | | | | | | |
| Measles ... ... ... | | | | | | | | | |
| Scarlet Fever ... .. | | | | | | | | | |
| Whooping Cough ... | | | | | | | | | |
| Diphtheria and Croup ... | | | | | | | | | |
| Influenza ... ... ... | 2 | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Erysipelas ... .. | | | | | | | | | |
| Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) .. | 2 | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Tuberculous Meningitis | | | | | | | | | |
| Other Tuberculous Diseases ... ... | | | | | | | | | |
| Cancer, malignant Disease ... ... | 6 | | | | | | | 3 | 3 |
| Rheumatic Fever ... | | | | | | | | | |
| Meningitis ... ... | | | | | | | | | |
| Organic Heart Disease... | 6 | | | | | | | 3 | 3 |
| Bronchitis ... ... | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Pneumonia (all forms) ... | 9 | 1 | | | | 3 | 3 | 2 | |
| Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs | | | | | | | | | |
| Diarrhœa and Enteritis | | | | | | | | | |
| Appendicitis & Typhlitis | | | | | | | | | |
| Cirrhosis of Liver ... | | | | | | | | | |
| Alcoholism ... .. | | | | | | | | | |
| Nephritis and Bright's Disease ... ... | | | | | | | | | |
| Puerperal Fever... ... | | | | | | | | | |
| Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ... | | | | | | | | | |
| Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide ... ... | | | | | | | | | |
| Suicide ... ... ... | | | | | | | | | |
| Other Defined Diseases | 11 | | 1 | | | | 1 | 2 | 7 |
| Diseases ill-defined or unknown ... ... | | | | | | | | | |
| Accidents... ... ... | | | | | | | | | |
| Totals ... ... | 38 | 2 | 1 | | | 3 | 6 | 11 | 15 |

# TABLE IV.

Linslade Urban District.—Infantile Mortality during the year 1918.
Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various ages under One Year of Age.

| CAUSE OF DEATH. | Under 1 week. | 1—2 weeks. | 2—3 weeks. | Total under 1 month. | 1—3 months. | 3—6 months. | 6—9 months. | 9—12 months | Total Deaths under One Year. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| All Causes { Certified | | | | | | | | | |
| All Causes { Uncertified | | | | | | | | | |
| Small-pox ... ... ... | | | | | | | | | |
| Chicken-pox ... ... | | | | | | | | | |
| Measles ... ... ... | | | | | | | | | |
| Scarlet Fever ... ... | | | | | | | | | |
| Whooping Cough ... | | | | | | | | | |
| Diphtheria : Croup ... | | | | | | | | | |
| Erysipelas ... ... | | | | | | | | | |
| Tuberculous Meningitis | | | | | | | | | |
| Abdominal Tuberculosis | | | | | | | | | |
| Other Tuberculous Diseases | | | | | | | | | |
| Meningitis (*not Tuberculous*) | | | | | | | | | |
| Convulsions ... ... | | | | | | | | | |
| Laryngitis... ... ... | | | | | | | | | |
| Bronchitis ... ... ... | | | | | | | | | |
| Pneumonia (all forms) ... | | | | | | | I | | I |
| Diarrhœa ... ... ... | | | | | | | | | |
| Enteritis ... ... .. | | | | | | | | | |
| Gastritis ... ... ... | | | | | | | | | |
| Syphilis ... ... ... | | | | | | | | | |
| Rickets ... ... ... | | | | | | | | | |
| Suffocation, overlying ... | | | | | | | | | |
| Injury at Birth ... ... | | | | | | | | | |
| Atelectasis ... ... | | | | | | | | | |
| Congenital Malformations | | | | | | | | | |
| Premature Birth ... ... | | I | | | | | | | I |
| Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus ... ... | | | | | | | | | |
| Violence ... ... ... | | | | | | | | | |
| Other Causes ... ... | | | | | | | | | |
| Totals ... ... | | I | | | | | I | | 2 |

Nett Births in the Year—Legitimate 34.

## FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK.

### INSPECTION.

| | |
|---|---|
| Factories (including Factory Laundries) ... ... ... | 8 |
| Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ... ... | 30 |
| Total ... ... | 38 |

### REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Workshops on the Register at the end of the year, including Bakehouse ... ... ... ... ... | 12 |

### OTHER MATTERS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Underground Bakehouses ... ... ... ... ... | nil |

C. M. L. COWPER.

Medical Officer of Health.